5th February 1925] [Mr. B. Muniswami Nayudu]

case of both. If any particular panchayat wants to raise the rate, I do not think any Member of this Council will object to it. For these reasons, I support the resolution that has been moved."

The resolution as further amended was put to the House and carried.

COMMITTEE TO IMPROVE IRRIGATION FACILITIES IN THE CUDDAPAH DISTRICT.

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—" The resolution that stands in my name runs as follows :—

'That this Council recommends to the Government that a Committee be appointed to inquire into and report on the condition of the existing irrigation works in the Cuddapah district and the improvements that are necessary and feasible thereto and also on the possibilities of extending irrigation sources.'

" Sir, it will be necessary for me to give certain figures so far as this resolution is concerned. The area of the district is nearly 6,000 sq. miles. The population is 888,000. The revenue derived from the district is Rs. 16,87,000. The number of villages is 975. The most important of all, viz., the irrigated area from all sources, comes to nearly 150,958 acres of which the Cuddapah-Kurnool canal claims to irrigate 32,737 acres. The number of tanks, both large and small, is 1,166 besides river channels and other supply channels which go to feed these tanks.

" The next point that I would urge is that this district is notoriously in the famine zone. From the year 1875–76, when the big famine occurred, until now five famines devastated the district. In 1891, there was a very severe famine in parts of the district. In 1896–97, there was another severe famine. During the last two faslis Rayachoti taluk suffered largely from famine and even the western portion of Pulivendla taluk was affected, and, notwithstanding the theory that has been persistently advanced by the Forest department that the conservation of forests will improve rainfall, it so happens that in the Cuddapah district the greater the conservation of forests the lesser is the rainfall. The Government also wanted to improve the rainfall by imposing punitive police in some villages the forests of which were said to have been destroyed by these villagers. Notwithstanding all these efforts and theories Cuddapah is yet far behind the normal average rainfall.

" I have said something about the famine condition of the district. As regards the actual conditions of the tanks and other sources of supply, they are extremely deplorable. It so happens that none of the big officers ever visit the district. They may pass from Madras to Bellary or Anantapur but they sleep in their railway compartments when they pass through Cuddapah station. The only consolation that the people derive is that these officers pass through their station in a sleeping mood (Laughter). Out of 1,166 tanks, more than 75 per cent are in need of repairs. In the case of some tanks there is no attempt at all at repairing them. I shall give only one instance, because if I were to quote all there will be no time for all the 25 resolutions to be discussed. Lomada tank is the instance. A breach occurred in that tank some time back, and it is in a

worse condition now. No attempt has been made at repairing it. Some tanks are leaky. For instance, the Vontimetta tank is one. The supply channels to the various tanks have become silted up, and most of these tanks are in a hopelessly broken and dilapidated condition.

"Now as regards the direct supply channels from rivers and other spring channels, several of these have dried up, and there is not a single drop of water flowing over them or underneath them. Still, the Government are collecting wet assessment on the lands situated alongside these channels, though they know that paddy or any wet crop has not been raised. For instance, on the lands along Kottapalli channel they do collect wet assessment. Notwithstanding the protest and notwithstanding the humble submission raised by the ryots the Government are collecting wet assessment The answer that they give is 'this channel is subject to kudimaramat, and the kudis have not repaired the tank and therefore we are not bound to take notice of the absence of wet cultivation'. Of course this argument may look quite logical and clever, but it does not at all satisfy the poor ryots who are in a miserable condition. Now in other cases, though the tanks received their supply quite sufficiently in olden days, say, for about 4 to 6 months, now it lasts for 2 months, i.e., half of what it was Now, Sir, that is the condition of the several sources of supply.

"Now I shall take up the condition of some taluks in general. In Sidhout taluk the first crop, cultivated area has considerably diminished during the last ten years. In 1320 fasli the number of acres cultivated was 8,199. In fasli 1330, ten years later, it has diminished to 7,466. That is the progress which this taluk has undergone under the generous British Government in this Presidency. The number of tanks in the taluk is 104, and most of them are in a very bad condition. Let us take the Badvel taluk which contains a natural tank formed by the natural hills and other boundaries. In ancient days it contained big tanks and the Badvel tank is at present one of the biggest tanks, perhaps second only to the Cumbum tank.

"That tank also has got a wet area of 3,000 acres to irrigate. But during

1 p.m. the last three years this area was not fully cultivated with paddy or other wet crop. Only dry crops were grown. This Badvel taluk suffered from famine in 1891-92 and parts of the taluk are in chronically bad condition. Most of the tanks are in a state of disrepair. And the Sagileru project is not only in a state of disrepair, but the water in it is not sufficient. I am sorry to observe that the condition of this taluk has not attracted the attention either of the local authorities or of those above. All the pattadars there are people who are mostly paying Rs. 10 or less each. The average holding, both dry and wet, decreased considerably during the last ten years, between 1910 and 1920. The arable area decreased from 70 per cent to 63·7 per cent. The percentage of area cultivated also decreased from 77 to 67 per cent. The population also is falling off. In the year 1911 it was 95,896, and in the year 1921 it was less by about 5,000. They have all gone away from this taluk. That is the deplorable condition of this taluk.

"Rayachoti taluk has an area of 1,103 square miles. It has 737 tanks. The Revenue authorities visited this taluk with regard to the remission work.

5th February 1925] [Mr. T. M. Narasimhacharlu]

The taluk gets the smallest quantity of rainfall though it is surrounded on all sides by closely-preserved forests The people are very poor here.

"I have said that the Pulivendla taluk is adjacent to Anantapur, but the misfortune of Anantapur extends also to portions of this taluk. It suffers from droughts. These four taluks are the worst-affected taluks in the district. I am not unconscious of the fact that the Government have done something to improve the irrigation facilities by constructing the Cuddapah-Kurnool canal. I am glad to say that the irrigation of this canal has been improved and several projects have been added to it, with the result that a larger and larger area is being irrigated. In the year 1900 the area irrigated by this canal was 11,482 acres, in 1910 it was 15,132 acres and in 1920 it was 19,565 acres. This shows that where Government have shown some sympathy and have translated that sympathy into action, the improvement of the people has been assured. All these people are very grateful to the Government, and it is in that grateful attitude that I have come forward with this resolution, so that Government could extend their sympathy to the other taluks also. Only two taluks are benefited by this Cuddapah-Kurnool canal, viz., parts of Proddatur and the Cuddapah taluk. Even here I am bound to bring to the notice of the hon. the Law Member that there is an anicut in the canal in the Cuddapah taluk. Now, Sir, I do not know who constructed that anicut; but more water flows out on account of leakage than what irrigates the fields, so much so that the Penneru river down the anicut is a perpetual stream. Added to that, the people also are wasting a large quantity of water from this canal, so much so that a very large quantity of water goes waste into the Penneru river. I hope the hon. the Law Member will take note of this also and rectify it so that more water can be taken and utilized by the people.

"Now this in brief is the condition of the district. It is unnecessary for me to say that improvements are necessary. I shall not dilate upon this aspect of the question. But I must bring to the notice of the hon. the Law Member the third point involved in this resolution, viz., the possibilities of extending the irrigation facilities of this district. The district is famous for the number of rivers that flow through it. There is the Penneru river running right through. Then we have the Chitravati, the Papaghni, the Cheyyeru and several other smaller rivers on the southern side. There are also the Sagileru and the Kundu. Some of these rivers pass through very beautiful country surrounded by forests and hills, very often piercing through mountain gorges, to the plains. Now my submission is that when the district has got such natural advantages for irrigation purposes, I fail to see why Government have not bestowed any attention at damming these rivers and utilizing their water for the purpose of irrigation. I have perused Mr. Morgan's Report on the Irrigation Projects in which it has been stated that some schemes were explored and found to be impracticable. With due deference to those that have explored them I would say that they have done it indifferently. Proper care and attention has not been bestowed upon it, and I think it is not just to say that the district has had a trial and been found wanting.

"Lastly, Sir, I know that very recently we have passed the Irrigation Act: I am aware that the hon. the Law Member in his speech at Bellary said that Cuddapah will be benefited by a scheme which he had adumbrated and that

it would add 5,000 acres to the area cultivated; I also read the letter written by the Superintending Engineer, Diwan Bahadur Arokiaswami Pillai, to the Vice-President in which he adumbrates certain schemes which will benefit the southern portion of the Kurnool district and also the northern portion of the Cuddapah district. I know all these things. But what I want is not these mouth-watering schemes (Laughter). I want field-watering schemes (Laughter). The mouths of us in the Ceded districts have become parched on account of the constant watering. I implore the hon. the Law Member not to say that he has got this scheme, or that scheme, but confine his attention to the Cuddapah district. I do not now ask him to launch upon any new schemes; I am not very ambitious. All I want is this: please appoint a commission; let this commission investigate into these cases and find out the irrigation sources, their present condition, the feasibility of repairing them and putting them into efficient condition and also explore the possibilities of further improvements to the irrigation sources. This is a very small request and I do not think that the hon. the Law Member will have the heart to say, 'Well, I am not going to accept this resolution.' I appeal to his heart more than to his head. I therefore submit, Sir, that this is what is necessary.

"Some of my brothers in the Council have given notice of amendments. As regards the amendment given notice of by my hon. Friend Mr. G. Rameswara Rao substituting a special officer for the committee which I am asking for, I do not know when he became enamoured of the special officer. My object is this. Let there be a special officer and let there be one or two representatives of the people who know how to represent the grievances of the people. The committee may contain officials and non-officials, experts and non-experts. Therefore I implore my old friend Mr. Rameswara Rao not to press his amendment."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"He has not moved it yet."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"In anticipation of that I ask him not to do so. With these words I recommend that this resolution may be accepted."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo:—"Sir, I second the motion. I have no intimate knowledge of Cuddapah; but this much I know of it, that it is a famine district, and every alternate year much of the provincial revenues goes out to the district for the purpose of famine relief. We now know Cuddapah very well from the lucid exposition of its condition by our hon. Friend Mr. Narasimhacharlu. We have seen that the policy of giving famine relief every alternate year does not go very far to improve the condition of the district. Instead of that it would be better if some radical remedy is applied by improving the irrigation facilities of the district and bringing large areas under cultivation. Only by doing so can we stop the constant occurrence of famine in the district. I hope Government will appoint a committee to investigate the matter and thus look to the interests of Cuddapah."

*Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, I have given notice of an amendment suggesting the substitution of the words, 'a special officer with power to co-opt a non-official from each district' for the words 'a committee,' and the substitution of the words 'Ceded districts' for the words 'Cuddapah

[4th February 1925

The hon. Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" All that I promise is that I shall undertake to convey to the authorities concerned the feelings exhibited by hon. Members in this House and the statements made by them."

Mr. R. Veerian :—" May I know whether any particular community has got a right over another community to compel them to do menial work unlawfully ? " (Laughter).

Irrigation.

Improvement of the Suriliar channels.

* 50 *Q.*—Mr. A. Chidambara Nadar : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) how far the proposals for improving the Suriliar channels have been worked out ; and

(*b*) how far the spout system of irrigation recently introduced is progressing and whether it is really advantageous to the ryots ?

A.—(*a*) Estimates have been prepared.

(*b*) Resluicing is in progress and, together with the remodelling of the channels of which this forms a part, should be very beneficial to the ryots.

Mr. A. Chidambara Nadar :—" With regard to clause (*a*) of the question, may I know how long it would take to give effect to the proposals ? "

The hon. Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" As I have already stated in the answer to clause (*b*), resluicing is in progress, and I do not think it ought to take more than three or four months."

Repairs to the anicut, etc., at Periapalaiyam village, Erode taluk.

* 51 *Q.*—Mr. R. Veerian : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the anicut of Periapalaiyam village, Erode taluk, Coimbatore district, was washed away by the floods several years ago and the same was left in a ruined condition without any repairs whatever ever since the time ;

(*b*) what has become of the mahazar submitted by the residents of Agrahara Periapalaiyam village, Erode taluk, to the Coimbatore District Collector on 20th March 1924 requesting him to inspect the channel and the anicut ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that owing to non-repairs of the channel and the anicut most of the lands lying near by were transferred from wet to dry except a few portions at the tail end of the channel ;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the signatories to the mahazar are prepared to dig the ruined channel at their expense on condition that the Government undertake to rebuild the existing anicut across Noyyal (under ruins) ;

(*e*) if so, the difficulty in accepting the offer made by the signatories to the mahazar ; and

cognate resolutions. I may say at once that I have no objection to constitute a committee of officials and non-officials for the purpose of advising Government in regard to the possibilities of irrigation in the Ceded districts, and I agree for this reason. I have from time to time received notices of various resolutions bearing upon the separate districts, and each one of those districts has tabled resolutions through its representatives for the appointment of a committee to explore the possibilities in the matter of irrigation advance. For instance, in regard to the Kurnool district there is a resolution that has been tabled. There was another resolution that was tabled in the last session asking for irrigation facilities in the Ceded districts as a whole. I think, Sir, it will strengthen the hands of Government if we put before the House facts and figures in such a manner as to make the work easy for the committee and so as to enable the House later on through that committee to realize the propriety of the course that the Government pursue or will pursue in regard to irrigation in the Ceded districts and other districts similarly situate. Two circumstances which may have a bearing on this matter are these. The difficulty in the case of Cuddapah district is that on account of the scanty rainfall in bad years the catchment areas fail and also the fact remains of a porous sub-soil in most of the cases. The result has been that we have found it difficult to conduct our investigations to a successful termination with reference to any small project. In saying so I do not want the House to go away with the impression that the Government have not either with reference to Cuddapah district or any other district taken care to investigate and even to put on hand many important projects. Naturally from the conditions of the district and the conditions of the surrounding country those projects have not been ambitious schemes. Let me, before I proceed further, indicate what are the schemes which have been attempted in the case of the Cuddapah district. There is the Chepad project consisting in the excavation of a channel from the Kunderu river above the Rajoli anicut; the Maidkur project provides for the improvement of the existing Maidkur channel for over three miles extending it for a length of 11¼ miles and for providing the necessary branch channels, and it is nearing completion; the Ukkayapalli project is to command an area of 16,000 acres and has been completed at a cost of Rs. 78,103; the Nagavaram anicut system providing for the improvement of the existing anicut and supply channel, has been completed at a cost of Rs. 88,757; the Sagileru system to which advertance has been made was also completed at a cost of over Rs. 3,00,000; with regard to the Papaghni reservoir project the preliminary report was submitted, but the scheme was not sufficiently promising to justify detailed investigation. And there are also other projects which I can mention. I am only mentioning these for the purpose of showing that it has not been the policy of the Government to ignore the Cuddapah district or any of the Ceded districts, but our outstanding difficulty has been the porous nature of the sub-soil in most of the cases, also the scanty rainfall and the nature of the catchment area. Therefore in regard to the irrigation of the Cuddapah district and other adjoining districts the policy of the Government has been to investigate the possibility of an irrigation project having its origin elsewhere which may be sure of its water-supply and a reservoir which would, to a certain extent, though not completely, benefit the particular areas concerned. It was with reference to those considerations that the Sangameswaram and Tungabhadra

5th February 1925] [Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar]

projects were investigated, the latter designed to irrigate a large portion of the Cuddapah district. But though I repeat these allegations and statements often in this Council, I realise that there is a feeling in the House that Government for some mysterious reason are not really in earnest in the matter of improving the famine conditions of those districts. I desire to repudiate that suggestion and I desire also to make it absolutely plain that I am perfectly willing to place all my cards on the table. I am prepared to appoint a committee of officials and non-officials. Let them investigate the matter, and let them be satisfied that small schemes will not be really of outstanding benefit to those areas. But the only thing that is to be done is to educate public opinion and the opinion in this Council and to enable this Council by a sort of self-denying ordinance to see that they do get for these areas sufficient money to inaugurate large and ambitious schemes to the exclusion of small projects. Especially in the conditions of the Ceded districts, the small projects will do no good. They will only be small palliatives. It may benefit certain specific localities such as the locality where the Tungabhadra river goes, the Bellary west canal project for instance. These are the schemes which may be concentrated on as accepted. But if you want to improve the condition of the Ceded districts and make those tracts different from what they are, you have to embark on a project with a reservoir which is located elsewhere and from which the canal will irrigate such of the Ceded districts as can possibly be operated upon. It is from that point of view and because I am anxious and desirous that the committee should have all the information placed before it and to satisfy itself that the policy which the Government is pursuing is in a way the soundest policy for these tracts, that I propose to accept the resolution as amended."

Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai and Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu rose to speak on the motion

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Unless hon. Members wish to vary the resolution as amended and accepted by the Government it seems to me that it would serve no useful purpose to invite further speeches in the matter. I understand that Mr. Rameswara Rao who has given notice of other amendments is not going to move them. "

The resolution as amended was put to the House and carried.

FEES PAYABLE BY MEDICAL STUDENTS.

In the absence of Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar who had given notice of Resolution No. 4, Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar requested permission of the House to move it, and the permission was accordingly granted.

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Sir, I beg to move :

> '*That this Council recommends to the Government that the fees of the medical students who joined the Medical Colleges before notification No.* 559, *published on page* 303, Fort St. George Gazette, *dated* 3rd *July* 1923, *should, till they complete their course, be charged only at the rates prevailing on the dates on which they began their course either for the full course or for any particular subject for which they attend classes.*'

" I shall not, in moving this resolution with the permission of the Council, detain it for any considerable time. The justice of the proposition seems to